

**Lesson  
3**

# Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases

## Teaching

An **infinitive** is a verb form that usually begins with the word *to* and acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. In each example below, the infinitive is *to eat*. An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive plus its complements and modifiers. The entire phrase functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>As noun</b>      | <u>To eat healthily</u> was Anna's New Year's resolution. (subject)<br>Anna wanted <u>to eat healthily</u> . (direct object)<br>Anna's resolution was <u>to eat healthily</u> . (predicate noun) |
| <b>As adjective</b> | Her plan <u>to eat healthily</u> was fine. ( <i>to eat healthily</i> modifies <i>plan</i> )  |
| <b>As adverb</b>    | <u>To eat healthily</u> , Anna will learn the art of cooking vegetables properly. ( <i>To eat healthily</i> modifies <i>will learn</i> , telling <i>why</i> .)                                   |

To decide whether a phrase is an **infinitive** or a prepositional phrase, look at the word after *to*. If the word is a verb, the phrase is an infinitive. If the word is a noun, pronoun, or modifier the phrase is a prepositional phrase.

- John is going to the library. (prepositional phrase)  
Does Marie want to go with him? (infinitive phrase)

## A. Identifying Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases

Underline every infinitive.

- Lola hesitated to order the pork sausage.
- We don't care to go out for breakfast.
- Who wants to run to the store for some milk and bread?
- Marie's idea was to try eating vegetarian twice a week.
- To keep more taste and food value in vegetables, I use a steamer.
- Lou's intention to have healthy meals clashed with his love of ice cream.
- To cook eggs for all ten of us, you'll need a much larger pan.
- Where can you go to school to learn to be a chef?

## B. Identifying Infinitive Phrases

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the blank, write how it is used: **N** for noun, **ADJ** for adjective, or **ADV** for adverb.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. Her suggestion was to leave at 9:00 A.M.                                 | _____ |
| 2. It was his idea to take a cab instead of the subway.                     | _____ |
| 3. To get to the French restaurant, take a right at the next street.        | _____ |
| 4. Colin wants to live forever, but he eats like there's no tomorrow.       | _____ |
| 5. To eat healthily is not enough; you also need regular physical exercise. | _____ |

**Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases*****More Practice*****A. Identifying Infinitive Phrases**

Underline the infinitive phrase in each sentence. On the blank, write how it is used:

**N** for noun, **ADJ** for adjective, or **ADV** for adverb.

1. To have a balanced diet, keep the food triangle in mind. \_\_\_\_\_
2. George wants to take Lea out tonight. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fifty years ago, people didn't know to avoid "bad" cholesterol. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you like to read this detective novel? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Avoiding green, leafy vegetables is guaranteed to ruin your health. \_\_\_\_\_
6. To get good food at that place is impossible. \_\_\_\_\_
7. My grandmother taught me to make lentil soup. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Brenda went to that popular, crowded cafe simply to see her friends. \_\_\_\_\_
9. We listened to Rosalie's suggestion to disguise the leftovers. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Everyone plans to bring a potluck dish to the party. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Using Infinitive Phrases**

Use each of the following infinitive phrases in a sentence.

1. to make soup

\_\_\_\_\_

2. to get to dinner on time

\_\_\_\_\_

3. to ask you to dinner

\_\_\_\_\_

4. to wait tables

\_\_\_\_\_

5. to snack before the TV

\_\_\_\_\_

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# **Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases**

*Application*

## **A. Using Infinitive Phrases**

Use each of the following infinitive phrases in a sentence.

1. to eat a balanced diet

\_\_\_\_\_

2. to chew his food slowly

\_\_\_\_\_

3. to teach nutrition

\_\_\_\_\_

4. to avoid high-calorie snacks

\_\_\_\_\_

5. to get enough vitamins

\_\_\_\_\_

## **B. Writing Infinitive Phrases**

Rewrite the following paragraph, changing every sentence to include an infinitive or infinitive phrase.

**EXAMPLE** Eating well is important to your health.  
*To eat well is important to your health.*

Laying the foundations for health is simple. Your needs include choosing the right foods and exercising. For choosing foods wisely, consider the food pyramid. This guide advises eating some foods from each food group daily. The key is balancing your diet—some high-protein food, some fruits and vegetables, and some bread or pasta. For exercising effectively, stay simple. Walking every day beats going to the gym once a week.

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